CLAIMS

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

1.   *(Currently Amended)* A method for publishing affinity information concerning a user, comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of documents in a document management system;

generating a plurality of topics for each of the plurality of documents based on document content included in the corresponding document;

determining closeness values for each document based on a relationship between the document content and the topics with which the document is associated;

creating a content catalog;

creating document links in the content catalog, wherein the document links link to the plurality of documents stored in the document management system, and the document links are organized in the content catalog based on the closeness values;

~~(a)~~ generating an affinity between ~~a~~ one or more topics derived from the plurality of topics and the user, wherein the affinity has an affinity strength;

storing the affinity in a user profile associated with the user, the user profile being stored in a user profile repository; and

~~(b) requesting approval from the user to publish the generated affinity;~~

~~(c) determining whether the user consents to the publication of the affinity;~~

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(d) publishing the affinity to a content catalog if it is determined that the ~~userconsents to the publication of the affinity~~ creating a user link in the content catalog, wherein the user link links to the user profile stored in the user profile repository, and the user link is organized in the content catalog based on the affinity strength of the affinity.

2.   *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether the affinity strength exceeds a threshold, wherein this determining step is performed prior to the step ~~(b)~~of storing the affinity in the user profile.

3.   *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim 2, wherein steps ~~(b), (c), and (d)~~of storing the affinity in the user profile and creating a user link are performed ~~only~~ if the affinity strength exceeds the threshold.

4.   *(Original)* The method of claim 3, wherein the threshold is predefined.

5.   *(Original)* The method of claim 3, wherein the threshold is dynamically set.

6.   *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim 1, ~~wherein if the user does not approve publication of the affinity, the method further comprises the step of storing the affinity in a profile associated with the user so that the affinity is identified as non-approved.~~ further comprising:

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requesting approval from the user to publish the affinity, the affinity being stored

in a private section of the user profile;

determining whether the user consents to the publication of the affinity,

wherein creating the user link to the user profile in the content catalog is

performed if it is determined that the user consents to the publication of the affinity; and

publishing the affinity by moving the affinity from the private section of the user

profile to a public section of the user profile, wherein the public section of the user

profile is accessible to a plurality of other users and the private section of the user

profile is not accessible to at least one user in the plurality of other users.

7.   *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim 6~~4~~, wherein the step of requesting

approval from the user to publish the ~~generated~~ affinity comprises the step of

transmitting an e-mail to the user.

8.   *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim 1, wherein ~~if the user approves~~

~~publication of the affinity, the method further comprises the step of storing the affinity in~~

~~a public section of a profile associated with the user~~ the affinity strength is determined

based on the user's activities on the plurality of documents.

9.   *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim 6~~4~~, further comprising the step of

determining whether the user responded to the request for approval within a

predetermined amount of time measured from when the request was sent to or received by the user.

10.　　*(Original)* The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of accessing a policy document that specifies the predetermined amount of time.

11.　　*(Currently Amended)* A system for publishing affinity information concerning a user, comprising:

　　　　means for storing a plurality of documents in a document management system;

　　　　means for generating a plurality of topics for each of the plurality of documents based on document content included in the corresponding document;

　　　　means for determining closeness values for each document based on a relationship between the document content and the topics with which the document is associated;

　　　　a content catalog;

　　　　means for creating document links in the content catalog, wherein the document links link to the documents stored in the document management system, and the document links are organized within the content catalog based on the closeness values;

　　　　means for generating an affinity between a~~a~~ one or more topics derived from the plurality of topics and the user, wherein the affinity has an affinity strength;

　　　　a user profile repository;

~~means for requesting approval from the user to publish the generated affinity;~~

~~means for determining whether the user consents to the publication of the affinity;~~

~~a content catalog;~~

~~means for publishing the affinity to the content catalog if it is determined that the user consents to the publication of the affinity.~~means for storing the affinity in a user

profile associated with the user, the user profile being stored in the user profile

repository;

means for creating a user link in the content catalog, wherein the user link links

to the user profile stored in the user profile repository, and the link is organized in the

content catalog based on the affinity strength of the affinity.

12.   *(Original)* The system of claim 11, further comprising means for determining

whether the affinity strength exceeds a threshold.

13.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 12, wherein the means for

~~requesting approval from the user to publish the generated affinity only~~ storing the

affinity in the user profile does so if it is determined that the affinity strength exceeds the

threshold.

14.   *(Original)* The system of claim 13, wherein the threshold is predefined.

15.   *(Original)* The system of claim 13, wherein the threshold is dynamically set.

16.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for requesting approval from the user to publish the affinity, the affinity being stored in a private section of the user profile;

means for determining whether the user consents to the publication of the affinity,

wherein the means for creating the user link in the content catalog does so if it is determined that the user consents to the publication of the affinity; and

means for publishing the affinity by moving the affinity from the private section of the user profile to a public section of the user profile, wherein the public section of the user profile is accessible to a plurality of other users and the private section of the user profile is not accessible to at least one user in the plurality of other users.~~means for storing the affinity in a profile associated with the user so that the affinity is identified as non-approved if the user does not approve publication of the affinity.~~

17.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim ~~11~~16, wherein the means for requesting approval from the user to publish the ~~generated~~ affinity comprises means for transmitting an e-mail to the user.

18.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 11, wherein the means for generating the affinity determines the affinity strength based on the user's activities on

the plurality of documents ~~further comprising means for storing the affinity in a public~~

~~section of a profile associated with the user if the user approves publication of the~~

~~affinity~~.

19.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim ~~11~~16, further comprising means for

determining whether the user responded to the request for approval within a

predetermined amount of time measured from when the request was sent to or received

by the user.

20.   *(Original)* The system of claim 19, further comprising a policy document that

specifies the predetermined amount of time.

21.   *(Currently Amended)* A computer program product for publishing affinity

information concerning a user, the computer program product being embodied in a

computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

storing a plurality of documents in a document management system;

generating a plurality of topics for each of the plurality of documents based on

document content included in the corresponding document;

determining closeness values for each document based on a relationship

between the document content and the topics with which the document is associated;

creating a content catalog;

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creating document links in the content catalog, wherein the document links link to the plurality of documents stored in the document management system, and the document links are organized in the content catalog based on the closeness values;

generating an affinity between ~~a~~ one or more topics derived from the plurality of topics and the user, wherein the affinity has an affinity strength;

storing the affinity in a user profile associated with the user, the user profile being stored in a user profile repository; and

~~requesting approval from the user to publish the generated affinity;~~

~~determining whether the user consents to the publication of the affinity;~~

~~publishing the affinity to a content catalog if it is determined that the user consents to the publication of the affinity~~ creating a user link in the content catalog, wherein the user link links to the user profile stored in the user profile repository, and the link is organized in the content catalog based on the affinity strength of the affinity.

22.   *(Original)* The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising computer instructions for determining whether the affinity strength exceeds a threshold.

23.   *(Currently Amended)* The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the computer instructions for ~~requesting approval from the user to publish the generated affinity; determining whether the user consents to the publication of the affinity; and publishing the affinity to a content catalog~~ storing the affinity and creating a user link are executed ~~only~~ if it is determined that the affinity strength exceeds the threshold.

24.   *(Original)* The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the threshold is predefined.

25.   *(Original)* The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the threshold is dynamically set.

26.   *(Currently Amended)* The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising computer instructions for:

        requesting approval from the user to publish the affinity, the affinity being stored in a private section of the user profile;

        determining whether the user consents to the publication of the affinity,

        wherein the computer instruction for creating the user link in the content catalog is executed if it is determined that the user consents to the publication of the affinity; and

        publishing the affinity by moving the affinity from the private section of the user profile to a public section of the user profile, wherein the public section of the user profile is accessible to a plurality of other users and the private section of the user profile is not accessible to at least one user in the plurality of users computer instructions for storing the affinity in a profile associated with the user so that the affinity is identified as non-approved if the user does not approve publication of the affinity.

27.   *(Currently Amended)* The computer program product of claim 26~~21~~, wherein the computer instructions for requesting approval from the user to publish the ~~generated~~ affinity comprises computer instructions for transmitting an e-mail to the user.

28.   *(Currently Amended)* The computer program product of claim 21, ~~further comprising computer instructions for storing the affinity in a public section of a profile associated with the user if the user approves publication of the affinity~~ wherein the affinity strength is determined based on the user's activities on the plurality of documents.

29.   *(Currently Amended)* The computer program product of claim 26~~21~~, further comprising computer instructions for determining whether the user responded to the request for approval within a predetermined amount of time measured from when the request was sent to or received by the user.

30.   *(Original)* The computer program product of claim 29, further comprising computer instructions for accessing a policy document that specifies the predetermined amount of time.

31.   *(Currently Amended)* A system for discovering and publishing a user's affinities, comprising:

        a document management system that stores a plurality of documents;

a topic generation program that generates a plurality of topics for each of the plurality of documents based on document content included in the corresponding document, and determines closeness values for each document based on a relationship between the document content and the topics with which the document is associated;

usage metric software routines that function to discover the user's affinities to the plurality of topics, wherein each of the affinities includes an affinity strength;

a user profile repository that stores a user profile associated with the user, wherein the affinities discovered by the usage metric software routines are stored in the user profile; and

~~an affinity publication policy document; and~~

~~an approval agent that publishes the discovered affinities in accordance with the policy document;~~

a content catalog that stores document links to the documents stored in the document management system and one or more user links to the user profile, wherein the links to the documents are organized by the closeness values and the links to the user profile are organized by the affinity strength of the user's affinities.

32.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 31, further comprising:

an approval agent that monitors a private section of the user profile for newly discovered affinities and requests approval from the user to publish any newly discovered affinities;

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a publication agent that publishes affinities that the user approves for publication by moving the affinities that the user approves for publication to a public section of the user profile, wherein the public section of the user profile is accessible to a plurality of other users and the private section of the user profile is not accessible to at least one of the users from the plurality of other users a profile associated with the user.

33.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 3~~1~~2, wherein the usage metric software routines discover the user's affinities to the plurality of topics based on the user's activities on the plurality of documents and the closeness values between the plurality of documents and the plurality of topics the approval agent publishes a user affinity by updating the profile associated with the user.

34.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 33, further comprising a usage database that stores metadata associated with the plurality of documents, wherein the profile associated with the user has a public portion usage metric software routines determine the user's activities on the plurality of documents by accessing the usage database.

35.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 3~~4~~31, wherein the approval agent publishes a user affinity by updating the public portion of the profile associated with the user content catalog is hierarchical.

36.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 31, wherein the approval agent comprises notification means for notifying the user of a newly discovered affinity and for requesting permission to publish the discovered affinity.

37.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim 31, wherein the ~~policy document specifies a timeout period~~ content catalog is searchable.

38.   *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim ~~37~~32, wherein the approval agent includes determining means for determining whether the user has responded to the request for permission within ~~the~~ a timeout period.

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